

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 00694 150404Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13
ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11
XMB-02 OPIC-03 /162 W
-----019330 150544Z /21

R 150300Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9634
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0694

PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO STR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, SN
SUBJECT: GOS PARTICIPATION IN MTN

1. EMBOFF USED OCCASION OF DISCUSSION ON ANOTHER SUBJECT WITH
MFA DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC DIVISION LEE CHIONG
GIAM TO ASK ABOUT PROGRESS ON PM LEE'S COMMITMENT TO AMB-
ASSADOR WOLFF TO STRENGTHEN GOS MTN DELEGATION IN GENEVA.
LEE SAID NO DECISION YET MADE ON WHOM TO SEND. GOS HAS VERY
SHORT SUPPLY OF SENIOR OFFICIALS POSSESSING NECESSARY BACK-
GROUND AND PERSONAL QUALITIES, AND LEE IMPLIED THAT SUCH
OFFICIAL MIGHT BE IN GENEVA ONLY INTERMITTENTLY FOR IMPORTANT
MEETINGS. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT WHAT AMBASSADOR WOLFF HAD
IN MIND WAS CONTINUED PRESENCE IN GENEVA THROUGH JULY, IF POSSIBLE,
OF FIRST-RATE NEGOTIATOR WHO COULD PLAY USEFUL MODERATING ROLE
AMONG LDCS AND WHO COULD ENCOURAGE MORE ACTIVE LDC PARTICIPATION
IN MTN. EMBOFF CITED GOS UN AMBASSADOR TOMMY KOH'S PART IN LOS
NEGOTIATIONS AS EXAMPLE OF REPRESENTATIVE EXERTING INFLUENCE
DISPROPORTIONATE TO THAT OF HIS COUNTRY BY VIRTUE OF
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PERSONAL QUALITIES. THIS REQUIRES MASTERY OF ISSUES,
COUNTRY POSITIONS AND PERSONALITIES, AND INTERMITTENT
ATTENDANCE WOULD MAKE SUCH MASTERY DIFFICULT.

2. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION OF ABILITY OF GOS TO INFLUENCE
OTHER LDCS' POSITIONS IN MTN, LEE SAID CRUCIAL PHASE
IS IN INTRA-ASEAN DISCUSSIONS, WHEN GOS CAN SET OUT ITS

VIEWS FORTHRIGHTLY AND WITH LESS RISK OF SEEMING TO VIOLATE "G-77 SCRIPTURE." INSOFAR AS GOS SUCCESSFUL IN MODERATING ASEAN POSITION, IT CAN INFLUENCE ASIAN GROUP IN G-77 AND POSSIBLY HAVE MODERATE IMPACT ON FULL G-77 POSITIONS. GOS CANNOT, HOWEVER, AFFORD TO BREAK RANKS WITH ASEAN PARTNERS IN GENEVA, ALTHOUGH IT CAN, OF COURSE, PRESS FOR PRACTICAL COMPROMISES BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. LEE WENT ON TO MAKE STRONG PITCH FOR US HELP IN PRE-SERVING SINGAPORE'S LDC STATUS, POINTING TO LOSS OF OPIC ELIGIBILITY AND IMF DECISION ON EXCLUDING SINGAPORE FROM BENEFITS OF GOLD SALES AS DAMAGING IN THIS REGARD. HE SAID SINGAPORE COULD NOT CREDIBLY EXERT A MODERATING INFLUENCE IN LDC COUNCILS IF IT WERE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO HAVE GRADUATED FROM LDC STATUS.

4. COMMENT: LEE CHIONG GIAM'S VIEWS OF WHAT SINGAPORE CAN DO IN LDC FORUMS SEEMED LESS FORTHCOMING THAN THOSE EXPRESSED BY PRIME MINISTER DURING HIS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR WOLFF. PRIME MINISTER LEFT FOR SYDNEY COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE SHORTLY AFTER WOLFF VISIT, HOWEVER, AND WAS PRESUMABLY ENGAGED IN PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE UP TO HIS DEPARTURE. WOULD APPEAR THAT POSITION HE TOOK WITH WOLFF EITHER HAS NOT YET FILTERED DOWN TO GOS SENIOR WORKING LEVEL OR LOST SOMETHING IN CONFIDENTIAL

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TRANSMISSION. WE BELIEVE MORE ACTIVE SINGAPORE ROLE NOT PRECLUDED PROVIDED WE INFORM GOS IN MORE SPECIFIC TERMS AS TO WHAT WE WOULD LIKE IT TO DO.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

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